

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 and 6-17 are all the claims pending in the application after entry of the foregoing amendments. Claims 1-3 and 10-13 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 4-9 have been examined. New claims 14-17 have been added. Claim 5 is cancelled.

I. Claim Objection

The Examiner objects to claim 6 because of informalities. Therefore, Applicant amends claim 6 to correct the informalities. Additionally, minor amendments were made to claims 7 and 9 to correct informalities, and not because of prior art. Withdrawal of the objection is requested.

II. Claim Rejections

A. Claims 4 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Namiki. This rejection is respectfully traversed in view of the following remarks.

Applicant has amended claim 4 to include the features of claim 5. The failure of Namiki to anticipate the features of amended claim 4 is apparent from the Examiner not applying Namiki under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) to claim 5. Accordingly, Applicant requests this rejection to be withdrawn.

B. Claims 5, 6, and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Namiki. This rejection is respectfully traversed in view of the following remarks.

The Examiner alleges that Namiki discloses all of the features of claims 5, 6 and 9 except for the specific range in width and the angle of the chamfered portions, as well as the coated elastic body having a hardness in the range from 40 to 70. However, the Examiner takes the

position that it would have been obvious to modify Namiki to include the claimed ranges -
Applicant disagrees.

The features of claim 5 have been amended into claim 4. Also, new claim 14 has been added which includes the features of claims 4 and 6. Applicant respectfully submits that Namiki does not make obvious the features of amended claim 4 and new claim 14. This is because it is settled law that a particular parameter first must be recognized as a result-effective variable before the determination of the optimum or workable ranges of the variable can be characterized as routine experimentation. In the present case, Namiki provides the beveled end face to seal the end of the roller from oil or spray solution applied to the roller in an electrophotographic copying machine. However, Namiki does not address or even contemplate any of the problems associated with a paster roller in a web supplying system, as recited in the claimed invention. Therefore, Namiki does not (and cannot) provide any motivation for modifying the roller of Namiki to solve the problems solved by the claimed invention. Moreover, modifying Namiki to arrive at the claimed invention would not involve mere optimization of the workable ranges by routine experimentation, since Namiki does not recognize the problems solved by the claimed invention.

Therefore, for at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that the Examiner has not established a *prima facie* case of obviousness with respect to amended claim 4, and claim 6 and 9. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Moreover, Applicant notes that the problem of Namiki is due to a deformation of a flange portion of the roller or insufficient sealing in a forming method for the roll protective layer. On

the other hand, an aspect of a non-limiting, illustrative embodiment of the present invention is that a paster roller can pressurize a first web and a second web and prevent the web from being cut. Therefore, such an aspect of the present invention is different from that of Namiki.

In Namiki, in order to solve the above problem, it is disclosed that “the end portion, ..., is beveled or inclined inwardly or tapered in the axial direction of the core metal...” (column 2, lines 3-6) and the “angle θ_2 formed between the protective layer 16 and the core metal 12 is preferably equal to or less than the angle θ_1 ” (column 2, lines 21-23). However, the features of amended claim 4, and new claim 14 are not addressed by such a disclosure of Namiki.

An example of an aspect of the present invention is that force pressed at both ends of the web in a width direction is decreased and the web is pressed by a uniform force in the width direction of the web. Thus, the roller is prevented from cutting the web. Such features are not disclosed by Namiki.

C. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Namiki. Applicant traverses this rejection based on claim 8 depending from claim 4, which Applicant submits is not taught or suggested by the applied art.

III. New Claims

In addition to adding claim 14, as noted in the above comments, Applicant also adds new claims 15-17 which correspond to claims 7-9, but depend from claim 14. Applicant submits that these new claims would not have been taught or suggested by the applied art.

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appln. No.: 10/079,857

Attorney Docket No.: Q68660

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

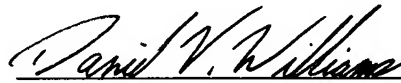
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